

## Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

San Bernardino Associated Governments ■ 1170 W. 3rd St., 2nd Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92410 ■ (909) 884-8276  
[www.sanbag.ca.gov](http://www.sanbag.ca.gov)

### ■ SANBAG signs on to national freight movement partnership

Two years of work is drawing to a close with the approval of an agreement that will promote joint solutions to challenges related to freight movement, air quality and other environmental issues in southern California.

The SANBAG Board joined other transportation commissions, the Southern California Association of Governments, the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and state and federal agencies in adopting a partnership agreement that will lead to long-term solutions to freight issues, including infrastructure needs, environmental effects and community impacts.

Planning & Programming Director Ty Schuiling explained the importance of early and active involvement by federal and state agencies in formulating strategies for freight movement and air quality improvements, due to federal and state policies on transportation and international trade.

### ■ Short-range transit plan on track

All aboard for expanded Metrolink service in San Bernardino County during the next five years. Board members adopted a new short-range transit plan for 2008-2012 for passenger rail service.

The plan calls for most of the expansion to be on the San Bernardino Line between San Bernardino and Los Angeles. Modest expansion is planned on the Inland Empire Orange County Line and on the Riverside Line, if operating agreements with Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Union Pacific can be amended to allow more trains on these lines.

Weekday ridership for the three lines combined is expected to grow about 26% from the current average of 21,218 to an average of 26,669 in 2012. Saturday passengers on the San Bernardino Line and Inland Empire Orange County Line also are projected to increase from 4,640 now to 6,431 in 2012. Sunday ridership on the San Bernardino Line is expected to climb from 2,338 to 4,243 during this same time.

Due to an equipment shortage, service increases will be limited to off-peak and weekend trips until 2011, when a peak-hour round trip train may be added.

The plan also calls for capital support for ongoing operations and new capital projects, including the Metro Gold Line expansion to Montclair and new passenger rail service to Redlands. A variety of funding sources will be explored for these new capital projects.



### ■ SANBAG to select next round of rail crossing projects

With an eye on funding that will be available soon, SANBAG is gearing up to select a group of five rail grade crossing projects for development.

In 2000-2001, SANBAG identified five grade separation projects, which now are either very close to construction or in final design. A new set of projects will be identified to take advantage of funding opportunities through Proposition 1B.

SANBAG will solicit candidate projects from Valley jurisdictions and select the top five based on delay times, safety and noise reduction benefits, construction timelines and other factors.

### SANBAG May Travel Tip . . .

SANBAG urges motorists to take extra care in construction zones. With sound wall work starting on Interstate 10 in Redlands, please stay alert, expect delays and be patient. Remember to obey posted signs and speed limits, keep ample distance from other vehicles, avoid the use of mobile phones and **always** wear a seatbelt. Keep in mind that traffic fines may be doubled in construction zones.



### Down the road ...

- May 9: Administrative Committee and Budget Workshop, followed by Trade Corridor Investment Fund Workshop, 9 a.m.
- May 17: Commuter Rail Committee, 12 noon
- May 18: Mountain-Desert Committee, 9 a.m.

## Survey offers glimpse of life in SB County

### Latest survey offers 10 years of data to study

Two out of three county residents believe living here is a good thing, according to the latest San Bernardino County Annual Survey, which was presented to the Board of Directors. The 10th annual survey examined public opinions about life in San Bernardino County, including the best and worst things about living here, transportation and commuting issues, fear of crime, perceptions of the economy, ratings of area services and more.

SANBAG has been a sponsor of the annual survey since its inception in 1997. The Institute of Applied Research at California State University, San Bernardino, conducted the latest telephone survey of 989 residents in October and November, 2006. The survey has a 95% confidence level, with a 3% margin of error.

This month's edition of **Street Smart** provides an overview of the survey results, both by the county as a whole and by geographical zones—the East Valley, West Valley, Victor Valley and Desert regions.

#### ■ **County Ratings**

Across San Bernardino County, 19% of those surveyed believed that the county is a “very good” place to live, followed by 47% who said it is a “fairly good” place to live. Another 21% said it is neither good nor bad; 8% said that it is “fairly bad;” 5% said it is “very bad.”

Views were more positive in the county's West Valley, which is made up of communities from Fontana to the west. In that zone, 76% said that living in San Bernardino County was either “very good” or “fairly good,” compared to the countywide results to 66%, the Victor Valley rating of 67%, the Desert rating of 63% and the East Valley rating of 50%.

Survey respondents praised the area's scenery, climate and affordable housing as the best things about living here. The top three concerns were crime/gangs, traffic and smog.

#### ■ **Transportation Issues**

Over time, concerns about traffic have grown. During the first year of the survey, only 1.7% of the respondents named traffic as the #1 problem in the county. This has grown to 12% who believe traffic is the worst problem now.

Interestingly, commute times are dropping in most areas compared to 10 years ago. About 64% of the residents surveyed spend less than an hour total on their daily commute, compared to 58% 10 years ago who spent less than an hour commuting each day. In the West Valley and Desert zones, commute times have improved even more dramatically: 65% of the West Valley residents reported spending less than an hour commuting, compared to 48% who responded 10 years ago. In the Desert, 74% spend less than an hour on the road each day, whereas just 56% spent less than an hour 10 years ago.

In the East Valley, the situation has reversed, with 63% of the drivers spending an hour or less commuting daily, compared to 69% a decade ago. Conditions

have remained stable in the Victor Valley—61% of the respondents said they spend less than an hour commuting, compared to 60% in the past. The longest

commutes overall, however, are by those residents in the Victor Valley.



Most of the respondents, 71%, commute to jobs in San Bernardino County, but a growing number of residents expressed willingness to take 5% or 10% cuts in pay to eliminate their daily commutes.

#### ■ **Other Quality of Life Issues**

Fear of being a victim of a serious or violent crime is at the highest level since the survey began, with 44% of the respondents expressing this concern countywide. This fear is highest in the Victor Valley, with 50% saying they were fearful of being a crime victim, compared to 40% just last year. Fear levels also grew in the Desert, from 22% last year to 37% this year. Elsewhere, 46% of the East Valley respondents expressed fear, and 40% of the West Valley respondents were fearful.

Turning to economic issues, about 46% of the residents said that they believe the county's economy is either excellent or good. About 31% said that they are better off financially than they were a year ago, and 51% expect to be better off financially next year.

Confidence in elected officials showed a drop, with 58% of the respondents saying that they have confidence that their local representatives will adopt policies that are beneficial to their community as a whole. Confidence levels were highest in the West Valley at 61% and lowest in the East Valley at 50%.

Ratings of other county services varies widely. Shopping opportunities rated high in most areas, with 68% expressing satisfaction countywide. Shopping was rated highest in the West Valley and lowest in the Desert. Police/sheriff received a 61% satisfaction level, public schools were favored by 49% and road maintenance hit a pothole with just 30% expressing satisfaction with street/road repairs.

